



Ministry  
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat  
Spitfire Block  
Headquarters Air Command  
Royal Air Force  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2019/00112

[REDACTED]

29 January 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 January 2019 asking for information about the recent incident at Gatwick Airport. Specifically, you requested:

*"Please disclose how many personnel were involved at Gatwick following the reported drone incident/s in December;*

*Please disclose how many days MoD personnel were involved;*

*Please disclose how many personnel were from each of the following: Army, RAF and Navy;*

*Please disclose all known costs to the MoD of their involvement in the case."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

A total of 10 RAF personnel were deployed to Gatwick Airport between 20 December and 2 January 2019 in response to a request from Sussex Police following reports of repeated drone encroachments to the airport authority airspace. The military support was requested and provided under 'Military Aid to Civil Authorities' (MACA).

Information on the additional costs to the MOD of the deployment of RAF personnel to Gatwick is not held as those costs have not been fully identified and collated yet. In particular, any miscellaneous costs incurred during deployment will not have been processed through the MOD's payment system yet.

Responsibility for investigating the sightings and security at Gatwick Airport fell to Sussex Police and the relevant airport authorities. If you require further information relating to events at the airport and the status of the investigation into the incident you may wish to


contact Sussex Police who can be contacted through their website at the following link:  
<https://www.sussex.police.uk/>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

  
Secretariat 3a1  
Air Command